

Good Neighbor Environmental Board ROUND-UP

Board and environmental news along the U.S.-Mexico border

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Good Neighbor Board News

*from the Good Neighbor Environmental Board
June 2003 Round-Up*

Upcoming 2003 Good Neighbor Environmental Board Meetings

July 30-31 Del Rio, Texas

October 22-23 San Diego, California

Board Chair Placido dos Santos Meets with Chair of CEQ

Good Neighbor's visibility among national environmental policy makers moved ahead last month when Board Chair Placido dos Santos met with James Connaughton, Chair of the Council on Environmental Quality (CEQ). The meeting took place at the CEQ offices in Washington, D.C. on June 11th, where Chair dos Santos presented Mr. Connaughton with a copy of the Board's Sixth Report to the President and Congress, and invited CEQ to respond to its recommendations. He and Mr. Connaughton discussed a number of issues in the Report, including binational efforts to improve air quality along the border.

Final Preparations Under Way for Del Rio Meeting

The Del Rio Civic Center has been selected as the meeting site for the Board's next meeting in Del Rio, Texas, on July 30th and 31st. Speakers on the first day will include senior officials from the Laughlin Air Force Base Restoration Board, Alcoa Fujikura de Mexico, Eagle Pass Public Works, and other area organizations. The second day will be devoted to a routine business meeting that ends at noon.

Board Member Paul Ganster Represents Board at Consejo Meeting

To help strengthen dialogue between Good Neighbor and similar counterpart advisory groups across the border, Board member Paul Ganster attended the June 27th meeting of the NorthWest Consejo in Loreto, Baja California. He briefed attendees on the recommendations contained in Good Neighbor's Sixth Report to the President and Congress. He also mentioned that the Board is planning a two-hour Joint Session with Consejo representatives during its final meeting of 2003, scheduled for October 22-23rd in San Diego.

Board Member Laura Yoshii Co-Chairs Second Border 2012 Workgroup Meeting

Board member Laura Yoshii, who is Deputy Regional Administration for the EPA Region 9 Office in San Francisco, was one of the co-chairs of the second Regional Workgroup meeting of the Border 2012 Program in Tucson, Arizona on June 5th. The other co-chairs were Steve Owens, Director of the Arizona Department of Environmental Quality; Antel Lopez Roman, State of Sonora; and Jose Luis Luna, SEMARNAT. (see *separate story under Border News*).

Amanda Aguirre, Board Member, Receives AMC Andy Nichols Award

Board Member Amanda Aguirre has received the Arizona-Mexico Commission (AMC) Andy Nichols Service Award. The award was established in honor of the late Dr. Andrew Nichols, founder of the Arizona Area Health Education Center.

Deliberations Begin on Children's Environmental Health, Topic of Next Report

In preparation for its next report to the U.S. President and Congress, the Board has begun to survey existing material on possible links between environmental problems and health problems of children in border communities. Good Neighbor's upcoming Seventh Report will focus on border-specific information – what we already know, where the gaps lie, and which groups are involved or should be. It also will recommend how the federal government can do its part to improve children's health by improving environmental conditions.

Note: The items in the section below have been cut-and-pasted and compiled from other documents. Please check a primary source to ensure complete accuracy. Web sites may have to be re-entered.

Border Region & National News

from the Good Neighbor Environmental Board

Border 2012 Program - The second in a series of Regional Workgroup meetings under the Border 2012 Program took place at the Loews Ventana Canyon Resort in Tucson, Arizona, on June 5th. This workgroup, called the Arizona-Sonora Regional Workgroup, is one of four that have been set up to carry out activities at different points along the border. Five taskforces were recognized: Ambos Nogales Air Quality Group; Water Task Force; Children's Environmental Health Taskforce; Chemical Emergency Preparedness and Response Task Force; and the Waste Task Force. Laura Yoshii mentioned that a task force on Environmental Education would be recognized soon.

In staff news, Tomas Torres has been selected as the new Border Team Coordinator for the EPA Region 9 offices in San Francisco and San Diego. Gina Weber remains the Border Team Coordinator for the EPA Region 6 offices in Dallas and El Paso.

Brownfields - The City of Tucson, Arizona, is among the recipients of a Brownfields grant under a recent round of grants funding to 37 states and 7 tribes totaling \$73.1 million. Tucson received both assessment and cleanup grants for the Rio Nuevo Downtown Redevelopment Project area, which encompasses many brownfields. See www.epa.gov/brownfields.

CEC - The Commission on Environmental Cooperation (CEC) has announced the appointment of William V. Kennedy to a three-year term as the new Executive Director of the Commission's Secretariat. His term will begin on September 2nd.

The CEC also has issued a Ministerial Statement following its Tenth Regular Session in Washington, D.C. on June 24th and 25th. Among the outcomes related to management of freshwater: Secretariat will share best practices case studies that demonstrate conservation techniques and sustainable watershed practices. Regarding children's health and the environment: initial set of 12 indicators will be published next year, as well a report documenting progress in implementing the CEC's Cooperative Agenda on Children's Health and the Environment. See www.cec.org. On the day preceding the session, U.S. and Canadian Environment Ministers announced plans for three pilot projects to promote coordinated air quality management.

Drinking Water - EPA has introduced a new Spanish-language campaign for the auto repair and service industry called "You Dump It, You Drink It." English and Spanish language materials were distributed at the recent national convention of the League of United Latin American Citizens (LULAC).

See www.epa.gov/epaoswer/hazwaste/usedoil/index.htm.

Environmental Justice - EPA's Office of Environmental Justice has announced a new grant program that provides financial assistance to community-based organizations for capacity-building around environmental and/or public health issues. Deadline for applications: September 30th.

See www.epa.gov/compliance/recent/ej.html.

EPA Deputy Administrator - EPA Deputy Administrator Linda Fisher has announced her resignation effective July 11th.

EPA Report - The Agency has released its first “Draft Report on the Environment,” which uses data gathered from 30 federal, state, tribal, and NGO groups to measure progress using agreed-upon benchmarks. Among its findings, it notes the need for additional data to answer questions about the links between some environmental pollutants and health effects. See www.epa.gov/indicators .

Health Research - The Regional Academic Health Center in Harlingen, Texas will become the home of the first and only U.S. Hispanic Nutrition Research and Education Center. The Center will study the nutrition of Hispanics nationwide, according to a recent article in the local Valley Star newspaper.

NADB - The North American Development Bank (NADB) has signed a US\$2.12 million grant agreement with the water utility in Ojinaga, Chihuahua. The funds will be used to construct a wastewater treatment plant and residential hookups. The Bank also has signed a US\$10 million grant agreement with the water utility in Reynosa, Tamaulipas, to construct several projects under the city’s sanitation program. In addition, the Bank signed agreements for \$8 million in wastewater projects in the Arizona-Sonora border region.

Research - In its second quarter 2003 Progress Report, SCERP says it has awarded 20 new research projects with a start date of June 1st. It also gives updates on existing projects such as Environmental Health Threats Lurking Close to Home, which has printed a comic book entitled “Aguas que hay microbios.” See www.scerp.org .

School Gardens - The Western Growers Charitable Foundation has announced the first round of grant recipients for the Growing With Children school garden program. The goal of the project is to plant a garden in every school in California and Arizona. See www.wga.com .

Toxics - On June 30th, EPA released its latest Toxic Release Inventory (TRI), an annual report on the amount of toxic chemicals released into the environment by reporting facilities. This report covers calendar year 2001. See www.epa.gov/tri .

Please check a primary source for accuracy.

Events specific to border region are in bold.

*Web sites may have to be re-entered. Please notify Editor of changes. ****

Events Calendar

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July 10	Border 2012 TX- NM/Chihuahua Workgroup meeting, Ciudad Juarez, CH.
July 30-31	<u>GOOD NEIGHBOR ENVIRONMENTAL BOARD MEETING, DEL RIO, TX.</u>
Aug 6-8	Border Governors Conference, Chihuahua, Chih., MX.
Aug 12-15	RCRA National Meeting, Washington, D.C. See www.epa.gov/osw/meeting
Aug 28	Border 2012 TX/Coahuila-Nuevo Leon-Tamaulipas Workgroup meeting, Laredo, TX.
Sept 14-17	ACHMM Conference on Haz Mat Management, Dallas TX. See www.achmm.org
Sept 25-26	Border Trade Alliance Intl. Conference, Ciudad Juarez, Mexico. See www.thebta.org
Oct	Border 2012 National Coordinators Meeting
Oct 19-22	National Pesticides Stewardship Alliance Conference, Tucson, AZ. See www.npsalliance.org
OCT 22-23	GOOD NEIGHBOR ENVIRONMENTAL BOARD MEETING, SAN DIEGO, CA.
Oct 23-24	U.S.-Mexico Border Energy Forum X, Austin, TX. See www.glo.state.tx.us/energy
Oct 26-29	Texas Recycling Summit, Galveston Island, TX. www.recycletx.com
Nov 5-6	Texas A&M Water Summit, Austin, TX. http://agsummit.tamu.edu
Nov. 17-19	Restoring Southwest Riparian Areas symposium, Socorro, NM. See www.aswm.org
Dec 3-4	CDC: 6 th National Environmental Health Conference, Atlanta, GA.

2004
Feb 11-13 SCERP Annual Conference, Laredo, TX. See www.scerp.org

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